

## Message Text

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60

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 PM-07 L-03 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03

OMB-01 SIL-01 LAB-06 AF-10 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /119 W

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R 071313Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0803

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 9948

BEIRUT POUCH BAGHDAD

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IS

SUBJ: LABOR PARTY AFFIRMS CONFIDENCE IN MRS MEIR

REF: TEL AVIV 9638

1. LABOR PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE CONCLUDED LONG GRUELING MEETING IN EARLY MORNING DEC 6 WITH OVERWHELMING VOTE OF CONFIDENCE IN MRS MEIR'S LEADERSHIP OF THE PARTY AND THE GOVT (291-33-15) AND WITH ALMOST UNANIMOUS ADOPTION (BY SHOW OF HANDS-- NO COUNT GIVEN) OF FOURTEEN POINTS AS KEY ELEMENT IN PARTY'S ELECTION PLATFORM.

2. AS NOTED REFTTEL, MAIN PURPOSE OF CONVENING KEY PARTY FORUM NOV 28 AND AGAIN DEC 5-6 WAS TO UNITE PARTY BEHIND NEW PLATFORM, AGREED UPON BY CONSENSUS OF KEY LEADERSHIP FROM ALL FACTIONS, AND TO TAKE STEPS TO CUT OFF NASCENT INTERNAL REBELLION OVER MEIR-DAYAN-GALILI LEADERSHIP ON EVENING OF ELECTIONS IN ORDER TO PRESENT UNITED IMAGE TO ELECTORATE.

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3. ON SURFACE THESE OBJECTIVES HAVE BEEN ATTAINED. ADOPTION OF 14 POINTS EXPRESSES PARTY'S COMMITMENT TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT INVOLVING TERRITORIAL COMPROMISES, AND ALLOWS LABOR TO DEPICT ITSELF TO ISRAELI PUBLIC AS PARTY OF PEACE IN CONTRAST TO UNRECONSTRUCTED HARD LINE OF OPPOSITION LIKUD. AT SAME TIME IT DEMONSTRATES PRESENT ASCENDANCY OF DOVISH ELEMENTS WITHIN PARTY, ALTHOUGH ON ISSUES OF REOPENING CANDIDATURE LIST AND DECIDING NOW ON FUTURE LEADERSHIP CHANGES THEY DID NOT GET THEIR WARY.

4. THUS, WITH ELECTIONS THREE WEEKS AWAY, LABOR PARTY WILL GO TO ELECTORATE WITH ITS LEADERSHIP INTACT AND ENDORSED, WHILE IMPORTANT DECISIONS RE CABINET CHANGES WILL NOT BE TAKEN UNTIL JANUARY. ELECTION PLATFORM LIKE ALL DOCUMENTS, THIS TYPE IS SUFFICIENTLY BROAD AND GENERAL NOT TO GIVE MRS MEIR DIFFICULTY IN FORMULATING OPENING GOI NEGOTIATING POSITION AT GENEVA CONF.

5. IT HAS OFTEN BEEN REMARKED THAT LABOR PARTY IS IDEOLOGICAL-POLITICAL "SUPERMARKET" WITHIN WHICH BROAD RANGE OF VIEWS CAN BE FOUND. CENTRAL COMMITTEE DEBATES DO NOT SEEM TO BE INTENDED TO PERSUADE ONE'S OPPONENT, HAWK OR DOVE, TO REASSESS HIS JUDGMENTS BUT TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR EVERYONE TO DEMONSTRATE CORRECTNESS OF HIS VIEWS. VERY FEW IF ANY OF LABOR PARTY LEADERS HAVE AS YET SHOWN CONVINCINGLY TO PUBLIC THAT THEY HAVE DRAWN SIGNIFICANT NEW CONCLUSIONS FROM WAR.

6. THUS, WHILE LABOR PARTY HAS PUT ITS HOUSE IN ORDER AND HAS ADOPTED CONSTRUCTIVE PRO-PEACE PLATFORM, WE DOUBT THAT CONFUSED AND DISORIENTED ISRAELI VOTING PUBLIC HAS BEEN REASSURED. SEVERAL LABOR PARTY SOURCES HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR CONCERN TO US THAT THIS TIME, ELECTION RESULTS ARE MOST UNPREDICTABLE EVER, AND THAT THEY FEAR POSSIBLE LARGE-SCALE ABSTENTIONS OF TRADITIONAL LABOR PARTY SUPPORTERS. THIS ALONE COULD PRODUCE SIGNIFICANT DECLINE IN LABOR ALIGNMENT MANDATES AND COMPARABLE GAIN FOR LIKUD OPPOSITION. THESE SOURCES SAY THEY EVEN FEAR THAT FOR FIRST TIME EVER, LABOR COULD BE OUT OF OFFICE.

7. WE BELIEVE THAT LABOR LEADERSHIP STILL FACES TOUGH JOB IN CONVINCING THOSE WHO ARE CONSIDERING ABSTENTION IN PROTEST  
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THAT, DESPITE ALL ITS SHORTCOMINGS, LABOR PARTY IS ONLY HOPE OF THOSE WHO PREFER PEACE TO WAR. MUCH CAN HAPPEN IN NEXT THREE WEEKS AND IN CURRENT FLUID SITUATION LABOR STILL HAS PLENTY OF OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE ITS CASE TO VOTING PUBLIC. AT THIS POINT, WE BELIEVE THAT, WHILE LABOR WILL LOSE SOME SEATS, IT WILL REMAIN STRONGEST PARTY AND MRS MEIR WILL BE ABLE TO FORM GOVT.  
KEATING

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## Message Attributes

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